

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 12050 111753Z

45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 USSS-00 AF-10

EUR-25 OPR-02 SY-10 MC-02 DRC-01 /153 W

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O P 111705Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4706

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR IMMEDIATE

COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12050

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PMOPS, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SHOOTINGDOWN OF ISRAELI PLANE

REF: DAO BEIRUT 0828

1. ORIGINAL UNTSO REPORT ON LOSS OF IAF PHANTOM (REFTTEL) INDICATED IT HAD BEEN HIT BY SAM. INASMUCH AS LEBANESE ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERIES (CONVENTIONAL, NOT MISSILES) IN LEBANESE ARMY AT FIRST THOUGHT IT HAD SHOT DOWN AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, UPON DEBRIEFING OF PILOT AND OBSERVER, LATTER SAID THEY HIT BY MISSILE FIRE FUTHER SOUTH AND NOT BY FIRE FROM LEBANESE A/A BATTERIES. (UNTOS OBSERVERS CONTINUE INSIST PLANE WAS HIT BY MISSILE.)

2. BOTH PILOTS ARE PRESENTLY IN HOSPITAL FOR EXAMINATION.

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GOL COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING NIGHT OF OCT 11 TO DECIDE

WHAT TO DO WITH PILOTS.

3. IF IF IS TRUE THAT PHANTOM HIT BY MISSILE, IT MAY BE WORTH RECALLING WE HAD REPORTS OF FEDAYEEN ACQUIRING STRELA SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES AS LONG AGO AS LAST MAY, WHEN THEY WERE BEING STRAFED AND BOMBED BY LEBANESE AIR FORCE (SEE INTER ALIA BEIRUT 11644 OF OCT. 2).

4. IN LOCAL PAPER, L' ORIENT-LE JOUR MORNING OF OCT. 11, JOURNALIST WHO WAS WITH FEDAYEEN IN ARKUB WRITES ABOUT FEDAYEEN FIRING STRELA MISSILES AT ISRAELI AIRCRAFT WHO ATTEMPTING BOMB AND STRAFE FEDAYEEN IN THAT AREA. HE GIVES CONSIDERABLE DETAIL TO DESCRIBING MISSILE WHICH REPORTEDLY HAS INFRARED GUIDANCE SYSTEM, VERY HIGH INITIAL VELOCITY, AND IS FIRED BY SINGLE MAN LIKE REDEYE. JOURNALIST SAYS THAT ISRAELI AIRCRAFT RELEASED BOMBS FROM ALTITUDES MUCH HIGHER THAN USUAL, IN ORDER AVOID STRELAS. BUFFUM

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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30 JUN 2005

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